<u>CLAIMS</u>

What is claimed is:

1.   In a document processing apparatus comprising a plurality of machine modules for processing and/or producing printed media, a method for producing interrupting jobs during the processing of a main job, the method comprising the steps of:

5   specifying the main job, the main job having at least one measure of progress;

        starting production of the main job;

        requesting an interrupting job;

10   interrupting the main job at a point when productivity is maintained and media is not wasted;

        producing the interrupting job, and;

        resuming the main job.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein the step of specifying an interrupting job further comprises specifying a sample job comprising a component part of the main job.

3.   The method of claim 2 wherein the step of specifying a sample job further comprises:

        specifying representative parts of the main job to be sampled;

        specifying a sample interval for each specified representative part.

4.   The method of claim 3 further comprising, after the step of starting production and before the step of requesting, the steps of:

        measuring the interval for each specified

5   representative part;

        determining if the specified sample interval has

14

elapsed for any of the specified representative parts, and if it has;

generating a sample job specification corresponding to the representative part for which the interval has elapsed.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the interval is measured in the number of copies produced in the main job.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein the interval is measured main job run time.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising before the step of requesting an interrupting job:
specifying an interrupting job of high priority.

8. The method of claim 7 further comprising, before the step of interrupting, the step of:
assessing the priority level of the interrupting job and if the priority level of the interrupting job is higher than the priority level of the main job, proceeding to the step of interrupting.

9. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of producing the interrupting job further comprises delivering the interrupting job at a convenient location apart from the main job delivery location.

10. In a document processing apparatus including a plurality of machine modules that process and/or produce printed media, a method for producing sample copies of specific parts of a document, the method comprising the steps of:
specifying a job;
specifying which parts of the job are representative;

15

specifying a sample interval for each of the representative parts of the job;

10 producing the job;

measuring intervals for each of the specified representative parts and when a particular interval is reached;

generating an interrupting job description calling for

15 the generation of a sample of the representative part of the job corresponding to the particular interval that was reached;

presenting the interrupting job description for processing;

20 analyzing the interrupting job description;

determining an efficient point in the job to produce the samples;

interrupting the main job at the efficient point;

processing the interrupting job description to produce

25 the sample, and;

resuming the main job.

11. A document processing apparatus comprising:

a plurality of machine modules in communication with each other for processing and/or producing printed media;

at least one computing platform in communication with

5 the plurality of machine modules for controlling and orchestrating the activities of the modules;

a plurality of document collection points attached to at least one of the modules; and,

at least one of the plurality of document collection

10 points designated, at least temporarily, as an interrupting job delivery point.

12. The document processing apparatus of claim 11 wherein the at least one computing platform further

comprises a digital front-end and a mark facility controller in communication with each other.

13. The document processing apparatus of claim 11 wherein the plurality of machine modules comprises at least one feeder device and at least one finishing device.

14. The document processing apparatus of claim 11 wherein the plurality of machine modules comprises at least one print engine.